

## 1999 W210 iPod USB adapter install

Bottom Line Up Front: Easy install (3 on a scale of 10), works better than advertised, and is my preferred solution to upgrade, but keep, my factory Becker stereo with 6-disc CD changer (which doesn't play MP3 format). You WILL need your radio code upon completion. I give it five stars out of five.

This covers the installation of a Denison Audio Systems Gateway 500 Lite D2B iPod USB adapter in an E-series car equipped with the factory Becker radio. The adapter is inserted into the fiber optic chain between the factory 6-disc CD player and the radio. The adapter is advertised as compatible with the Command system but I cannot speak to that. Plays MP3, WMA, and WMV. iPod or USB flash drive can be direct-connected or remotely via cable.

I did not disconnect the battery but did use common sense to ensure no shorts occurred. Also, be cognizant of the fiber optical cable and treat it with care; too sharp a bend will break it. Sharp edges exist under the console as I found out with bleeding fingers....

Soldering iron, solder, insulating tape, wire cutter/stripper, and sharp knife/razor was the route I took. You could use the crimps but I've never liked them; not reliable in my experience. Three connections total; if you do use the crimps, be advised one wire is about 18-20 gauge and the other two are 14-16 gauge. The three adapter harness wires are 18-20 gauge so there is a mismatch for power and ground.

My install required no drilling but I placed the adapter in an easy-to-access/maintain location. The adapter would not fit behind or to the side of the glove box; under the arm rest in the center console was my preferred location but would have required drilling  $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter holes in awkward locations. The center storage compartment in the instrument console under the radio was my next choice but I like keeping my sun glasses there. I went with a non-hidden mount on the passenger-side of the transmission tunnel and it is not obvious unless one is looking for it.

First, twist the bottom collar of the shift knob anti-clockwise to release, then remove the shift knob.





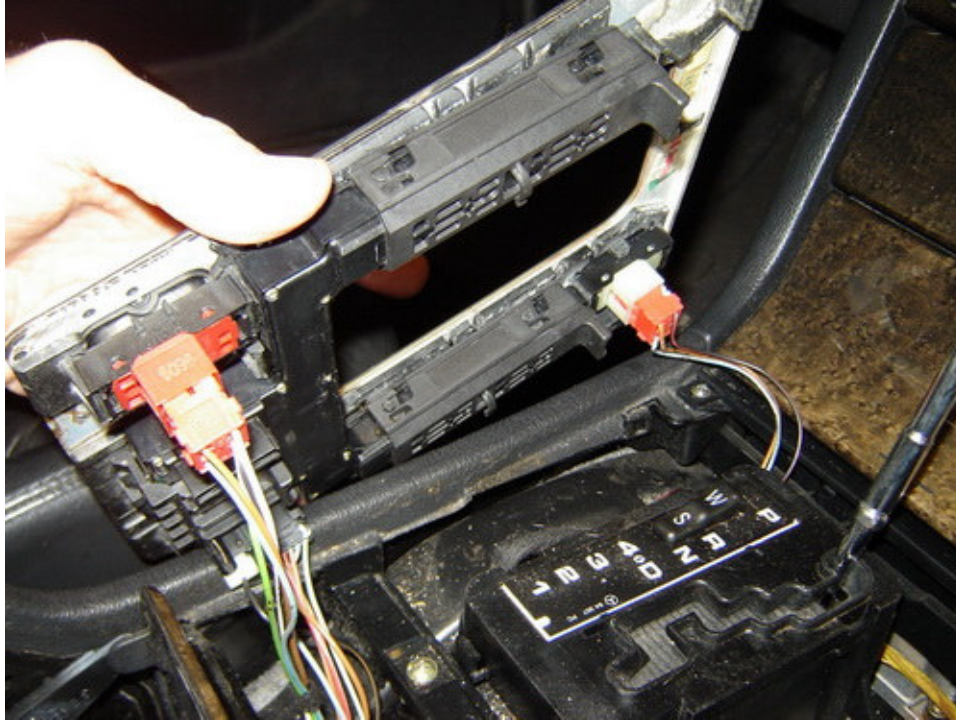
Next, pry up and remove the trim around the shift lever.





Lift large trim panel from the rear, then disconnect the electrical connections.





Remove two screws from ashtray, lift out and disconnect the lighter power connection. You will need to move the shift lever to the rear to have room to remove the ashtray.





Remove center storage compartment. You will have to reach behind and above it to use your finger(s) to pull down on the center catch on top of the compartment.





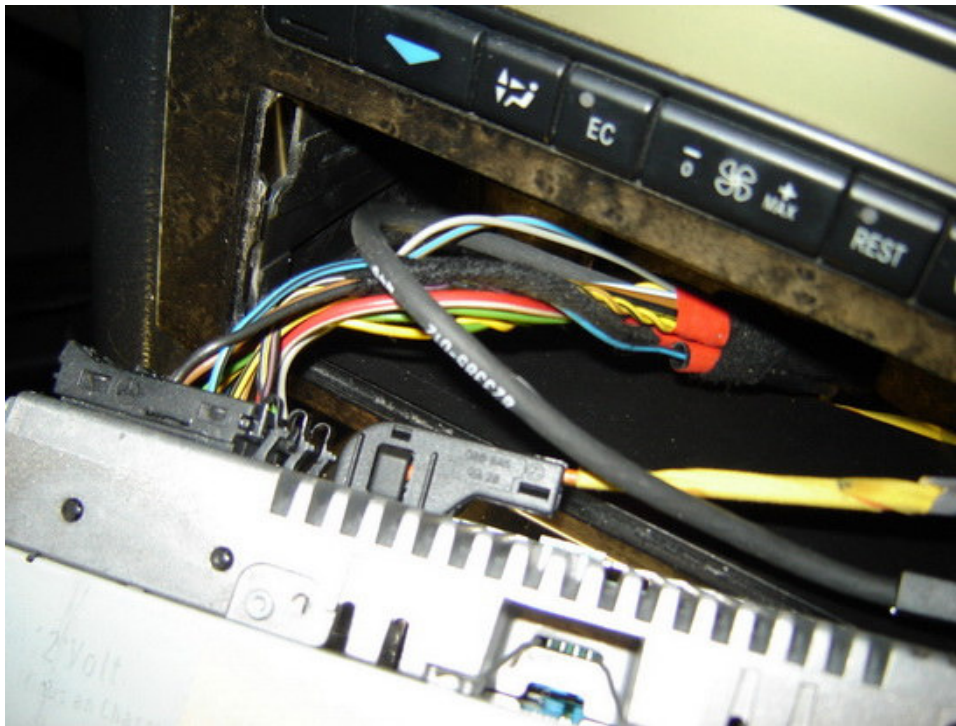
Next, use the radio removal tools to release the catches and carefully pull the radio out of the dash. Be careful of the fiber optic lines.



The tools go in like this:



Two connectors to left, fiber optic line with 90 degree adapter, and antenna lead.



Follow installation instructions. Three connections required: standby/wakeup, power, ground. I shaved the insulation back on the factory harness, then braided in and soldered the Gateway wires after cutting them to length. Apply insulating tape. Insert the appropriate fiber optic loop into the system. The supplied loops are labeled for Command and non-Command systems so it is easy to know which to use.

Hold stereo in front of dash, connect harness, fiber optic line, and antenna lead. This is where it gets tricky...you MUST take your time to ensure you do not kink the fiber optic line while sliding the stereo back into the dash. Take your time, move slowly, and feel behind the stereo to work the fiber optic lines into position.

Connect power connection to the Gateway adapter. Connect fiber optic line to the adapter. Connect iPod or USB drive. Power up radio, enter the security code, select CD, and then use the stereo buttons just like you are using the CD changer. Music! Wonderful, sweet music!



Reassembly is reverse of disassembly. One tricky point for me was getting the lighter connector back onto the ashtray; the harness was a bit short and it took me several minutes to fit it into place.

I placed six folders on a flash drive with music in two to test the adapter. Worked fine. I removed the USB drive, took it to the house and loaded music into the other folders. When reconnected to the adapter, the adapter did not recognize the newly-populated folders. I removed the power connector for a moment, the reconnected, and the new folders were recognized. Now that I'm reading the instructions, it appears that I could obtain the same effect if I removed the USB drive while in play mode and then reconnected. I have not yet tried this with an iPod but expect excellent results as well.



This is where I placed my Gateway adapter. It is not nearly as obvious as it seems in this flash-assisted photo.

